

**Case 3519*****Eumolpus* Weber, 1801, *Chrysochus* Chevrolat in Dejean, 1836 and *Bromius* Chevrolat in Dejean, 1836 (Insecta, Coleoptera, CHRYSOMELIDAE): proposed conservation of usage**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application, under Article 81 of the Code, is to conserve the usage of the generic names *Eumolpus* Weber, 1801, *Chrysochus* Chevrolat in Dejean, 1836 and *Bromius* Chevrolat in Dejean, 1836 by suppressing the name *Eumolpus* Kugelann in Illiger, 1798. *Eumolpus* Kugelann in Illiger, 1798 in its original usage included European species currently assigned to different genera, while in its modern usage *Eumolpus* includes mostly Neotropical species and is almost universally used in the sense of Weber (1801). It is proposed that the original usage of the name *Eumolpus* by Kugelann in Illiger (1798) and all usages of the name before that by Weber (1801) be suppressed. The name *Eumolpus* subsequently used by Weber (1801) will then become a name in its own right taking Weber's authorship thereby maintaining stability and eliminating confusion caused by potential use of *Eumolpus* Kugelann in Illiger, 1798.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; CHRYSOMELIDAE; EUMOLPINAE; *Eumolpus*; *Chrysochus*; *Bromius*; *Eumolpus ignitus*; *Bromius obscurus*; *Chrysomela praetiosa*; *Chrysochus asclepiadeus*; leaf beetle.

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1. The name *Eumolpus* was established by Kugelann in Illiger (1798, p. 498) to accommodate the leaf-beetle species *Chrysomela obscura* Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 375, currently *Bromius obscurus*), *Cryptocephalus vitis* Fabricius, 1775 (p. 108, currently a junior synonym of the previous species) and *Chrysomela praetiosa* Fabricius, 1792 (p. 324, a junior synonym of *Chrysomela asclepiadea* Pallas, 1773, currently assigned to *Chrysochus* or *Eumolpus*), followed by 'etc.' suggesting knowledge of additional taxa.

2. Weber (1801, p. 28) attributed the authorship of *Eumolpus* to Kugelann and described *E. fulgidus* (p. 52), a new species from Brazil, on the same page comparing



it with '*E. ignitus*', which can be interpreted as transferring the South American *Chrysomela ignita* Fabricius, 1787 (p. 68) to the genus *Eumolpus* Kugelann.

3. Fabricius (1801, pp. 418–423) listed under *Eumolpus* 26 species including *Chrysomela ignita*, *C. obscura*, *C. praetiosa* (spelled as '*C. pretiosa*') and *Cryptocephalus vitis*, but gave no reference to Kugelann or Illiger. However, on page ix he cites Illiger, hence it is assumed that he redescribed the taxon, and not described it as new, as in many other cases, e.g. *Coccinella*, *Chrysomela*, etc. In the text he gave names of authors only to the specific names. The preface of Weber's work is dated August 1800, but the publication was issued 'ante March 1801' according to Evenhuis (1997, p. 809), while the preface of Fabricius's (1801, p. x) work says '10 April, 1801'. The priority of Weber (1801) over Fabricius (1801) was established by Chapin (1946) and upheld by Evenhuis (1997, p. 809), Zidek & Pokorný (2005), the Commission (BZN 62: 124, June 2005), and Branco (2007, p. 7).

4. Latreille (1810, p. 432) designated *Cryptocephalus vitis* Fabricius, 1775 as the type species of the genus *Eumolpus* (without attributing the genus to any author). This fact was overlooked by most workers. Only Redtenbacher (1858, p. 893, and 1874, p. 453), who attributed *Eumolpus* to Fabricius, supported a generic concept consistent with Latreille's type species designation.

5. Chevrolat in Dejean (1836, p. 413) listed only South and Central American species in *Eumolpus*, which he assigned to Kugelann, most of which had been included in this genus by Fabricius (1801). We accept the authorship as 'Chevrolat in Dejean' because of Dejean's (1836, p. xij) statement in the third edition of his 'Catalogue. . .': 'Quant aux chrysomélines et à la section des trimères, M. Chevrolat s'en étant particulièrement occupé, je l'ai prié de vouloir bien m'aider de ses conseils, et j'ai adopté tous les genres qu'il a créés aux dépens des anciens grands genres *hispa*, *cassida* . . . *eumolpus*, . . . Je le prie de recevoir mes remerciements pour la part qu'il a bien voulu prendre à la rédaction de ce Catalogue' (As for the section chrysomelines and trimers, M. Chevrolat has particularly occupied himself with them, I asked him to kindly help me with his advice, and I have adopted all the genera which he has created from the old big genera *Hispa*, *Cassida* . . . *Eumolpus* . . . I hereby thank him for the part he was willing to take in the writing of this Catalogue). This genus mostly includes New World species, and none of the originally included species are currently assigned to it. The Old World and North American species that had been previously assigned to *Eumolpus* were placed in a number of genera, including *Chrysochus* Chevrolat in Dejean, 1836, p. 413 (often attributed to Redtenbacher (1845, p. 117, or 1849, p. 558), e.g. Chapuis, 1874; Harold, 1874; Lefèvre, 1885; Clavareau, 1914), and *Bromius* Chevrolat in Dejean, 1836, p. 412. Jacoby (1908, p. 507) designated *Chrysomela praetiosa* Fabricius, 1792, a subjective junior synonym of *Chrysomela asclepiadea* Pallas, 1773 (p. 725), as the type species of *Chrysochus*. As type species of *Bromius* and of its subjective junior synonym *Adoxus* Kirby, 1837 were designated *Chrysomela obscura* Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 375) (Monrós & Bechyné, 1956, p. 1127) and *Cryptocephalus vitis* Fabricius, 1775 (p. 108) (Kirby, 1837, p. 209), respectively. Subsequently, Hope (1840, p. 162) designated *Chrysomela ignita* Fabricius, 1787 (p. 68) as the type species of *Eumolpus* Fabricius, 1801 (as this species was included in *Eumolpus* by Weber, 1801, this type species fixation relates also to *Eumolpus* Weber, according to Article 67.7 of Code). On the other hand, Redtenbacher (1858, 1874) considered *Eumolpus* Fabricius, 1801 as a senior synonym of *Bromius* and



Jacquelin du Val (1868, p. 221) considered *Eumolpus* Fabricius, 1801 as a senior synonym of *Chrysochus*. As *Cryptocephalus vitis* Fabricius, 1775 is a subjective junior synonym of *Chrysomela obscura* Linnaeus, 1758, none of the species included by Kugelann in *Eumolpus* have remained placed in that genus (see Harold, 1874, p. 3385; Chapuis, 1874, p. 300; Lefèvre, 1885, p. 100; Clavareau, 1914, p. 98). Nevertheless, the name *Eumolpus* has continuously been used as valid for a genus containing a number of neotropical species.

6. Subsequent authors, until 1993, used *Eumolpus* for Neotropical taxa, but *Chrysochus* and *Adoxus* or *Bromius* for Holarctic taxa (Jacoby, 1908; Weise, 1921; Chen, 1935, 1940; Chûjô, 1936, 1938, 1942; Pic, 1927, 1928, 1934; De Monte, 1948; Papp, 1951; Bechyné, 1953; Costa Lima, 1955; Špringlová, 1960; Gressitt & Kimoto, 1961; Kimoto & Gressitt, 1966, 1982; Seeno & Wilcox, 1982; Medvedev & Shapiro, 1965; Medvedev, 1979, 1992; Lopatin, 1977, 1986, etc.), and were not consistent only in the use of *Adoxus* or *Bromius* as valid. At present, *Bromius* is considered to be valid.

7. Warchałowski (1993, p. 21) followed Jacquelin du Val (1868) and used the name *Eumolpus* (attributed to Illiger, 1798), associated with the species epithet *asclepiadeus* (Pallas, 1776 [sic]). He also cited *E. praetiosus* (credited to 'Schneider, 1791') as the type species of *Eumolpus*, and stated that the species included in *Chrysochus* must be transferred to *Eumolpus*.

8. Some European authors followed Warchałowski (1993) using the binomen *Eumolpus asclepiadeus* (e.g. Vig, 1997; Bieńkowski, 1999, 2004; Warchałowski, 2003; Gruev, 2004), while others (e.g. Kimoto & Takizawa, 1994, 1997; Peterson et al., 2001; Tan et al., 2005) continued to use *Chrysochus* as valid. Occasionally, *asclepiadeus* was placed in *Chrysochus* (e.g. Aslan et al., 1996; Dobler et al., 1998). Lopatin et al. (2004) used *Eumolpus* as valid for all involved northern Palaearctic species. The confusion did not affect the Neotropical species that were consistently placed in *Eumolpus* (Riley et al., 2002; Fontes et al., 2004; Farrell & Sequeira, 2004; Jiménez & Maes, 2009).

9. Warchałowski's (1993) designation of *Chrysomela praetiosa* as the type species of *Eumolpus* Kugelann in Illiger, 1798 is invalid, and Latreille's (1810) earlier, valid designation of *Eumolpus vitis* as its type species, places *Eumolpus* and *Bromius* in synonymy. This fact threatens stability in use of the genus-group names *Eumolpus*, *Bromius* and *Chrysochus*.

10. *Eumolpus*, *Bromius* and *Chrysochus* include well-known, widely distributed species referred to in a very large number of publications. Members of *Chrysochus* feeding on ASCLEPIADACEAE are used as biocontrol agents of invasive weeds in U.S.A. (Van Driesche et al., 2002). The Holarctic *Bromius obscurus* is particularly often cited in faunistic, morphological, and physiological publications. Neotropical species of *Eumolpus* are amongst the largest chrysomelids and are well represented in collections since the 18th century while the genus *Eumolpus* is the type genus of the subfamily EUMOLPINAЕ. It is proposed that the original usage of the name *Eumolpus* by Kugelann in Illiger be suppressed under Article 81 of the Code. The name *Eumolpus* by Weber (1801) will then become a name in its own right taking Weber's authorship, with the type species *Chrysomela ignita* Fabricius, 1787.

11. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:



- (1) to use its plenary power:
  - (a) to suppress the name *Eumolpus* Kugelann in Illiger, 1798 and all the uses of the name prior to that by Weber (1801) for the purposes of the Principle of Priority, but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
  - (b) to set aside all type species fixations for the genus *Eumolpus* Weber, 1801 prior to that of *Chrysomela ignita* Fabricius, 1787 by Hope (1840).
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *Eumolpus* Weber, 1801 (gender: masculine), type species *Chrysomela ignita* Fabricius, 1787 by subsequent designation by Hope (1840);
  - (b) *Chrysochus* Chevrolat in Dejean, 1836 (gender: masculine), type species *Chrysomela praetiosa* Fabricius, 1792 (a junior synonym of *Chrysomela asclepiadea* Pallas, 1773) by subsequent designation by Jacoby (1908);
  - (c) *Bromius* Chevrolat in Dejean, 1836 (gender: masculine), type species *Chrysomela obscura* Linnaeus, 1758 by subsequent designation by Monros & Bechyné (1956);
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *ignita* Fabricius, 1787, as published in the binomen *Chrysomela ignita* (specific name of the type species of *Eumolpus* Weber, 1801);
  - (b) *asclepiadeus* Pallas, 1773, as published in the binomen *Chrysomela asclepiadea* (the valid specific name of the type species of *Chrysochus* Chevrolat in Dejean, 1836);
  - (c) *obscura* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Chrysomela obscura* (specific name of the type species of *Bromius* Chevrolat in Dejean, 1836);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Eumolpus* Kugelann in Illiger, 1798.

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).